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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/849,359 | 05/18/2004 | Noriyuki Kobayashi | CFA00093US | 6284 |

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CANON U.S.A. INC. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
15975 ALTON PARKWAY
IRVINE, CA 92618-3731

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| EXAMINER |
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ELAMIN, ABDELMONIEM I

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2116

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| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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03/14/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/849,359 | Applicant(s) KOBAYASHI, NORIYUKI | |
| | Examiner Abdelmoniem Elamin | Art Unit 2116 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8,10,11,15,17,18,22 and 24-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8,11,15 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10,17,18 and 24-32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8, 11, 15, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enoki et al, US. Pat. No. 5,684,998 in view of Motegi, US. Pat. No. 7,088,017.

3. Claims 8, 11, Enoki teaches a storage device having a hard disk for storing data [*see hard disk drive 114 of Fig. 3*], the hard disk including a disk medium and buffer means [*col. 12, lines 50-51*] for writing data to the disk medium, the storage device [*col. 12, lines 50-51*] comprising:

power supply means for supplying power to the storage device [*power unit 102 of Fig. 3*];

detecting means for detecting an operation to cut off a power supply from the power supply means to the storage device [*detecting when the power switch 101 is turned off*];

medium writing means for performing a writing process for writing data stored in the buffer means to the disk medium when the detecting means detects the operation [*system status preserving unit 3002 of Fig. 14, col. 12, lines*]; and

power cutoff means for cutting off the power supply when the writing process has already been performed by the medium writing means [*col. 12, lines 60-67*].

Enoki does not explicitly teach access suspending means for suspending access to the hard disk when the detecting means detects the operation.

Motegi teaches access suspending means for suspending access to a hard disk when a detecting means detects the operation to cut off a power supply from the power supply means to the storage device [*see abstract, see also the steps of Fig. 6 and related disclosure*].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enoki to include access suspending means for suspending access to the hard disk when the detecting means detects the operation, because it causes the hard disk to release a head from a platter for thereby protecting data stored in the platter from damage [*see Motegi col. 4, lines 52+*].

4. Claims 15, 22, Enoki teaches notifying means for notifying that the operation to cut off the power supply is not permitted in a case where the writing process has not been performed by the medium writing means and notifying that the operation is permitted in a case where the writing process has already been performed by the medium writing means [*the buffer process end judging unit 3102 of Fig. 14, see col. 12, lines 60+*].

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 10, 17-18, 24-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 8, 11, 15 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdelmoniem Elamin whose telephone number is 571-2727-3674. The examiner can normally be reached on MON - THUR 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Prveen can be reached on 571-272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2116

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Abdelmoniem Elamin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2116

March 5, 2008